

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the pending specification with the enclosed substitute specification, pages 1-123.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

A1
Column 10 of Table 1, entitled "Protein Similarity" lists previously described proteins that are related to polypeptides encoded by the indicated SECX. Genbank identifiers for the previously described proteins are provided. These can be retrieved from the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 70, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

A2
The cell-free assays of the present invention are amenable to use of both the soluble form or the membrane-bound form of SECX. In the case of cell-free assays comprising the membrane-bound form of SECX, it may be desirable to utilize a solubilizing agent such that the membrane-bound form of SECX is maintained in solution. Examples of such solubilizing agents include non-ionic detergents such as n-octylglucoside, n-dodecylglucoside, n-dodecylmaltoside, octanoyl-N-methylglucamide, decanoyl-N-methylglucamide, TRITON ~~Friton~~[®] X-100, TRITON ~~Friton~~[®] X-114, THESIT ~~Thesit~~[®], Isotridecypoly(ethylene glycol ether)_n, N-dodecyl--N,N-dimethyl-3-ammonio-1-propane sulfonate, 3-(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylamminiol-1-propane sulfonate (CHAPS), or 3-(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylamminiol-2-hydroxy-1-propane sulfonate (CHAPSO).